eligible youths opting for a career in the Army has increased. On this consideration, the campaign is continuing.

Apart from the above, the Government have approved, in principle, short term, medium and long term measures to tide over the problem of shortage in Army. This includes reduction in training period of officers by six months at Indian Military Academy (IMA) for ex-NDA, Ex-ACC and Direct Entry cadets for a period of two years from January, 2000 to December, 2001 besides constitution of a high level committee to recommend feasible options to make Short Services Commission more attractive.

Lowering of the Cost of Mirage by France

1889. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether France proposes to lower the cost of Mirage to be sold to India by labour sharing arrangement with India;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of the sale; and

(c) by when the supply is expected?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The current negotiations for procurement of 10 additional Mirage 2000 aircraft have not yet been finalised.

Under Utilisation of funds by Army

1890. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether over Rs. 800 crores of the Army's Budget for 1999-2000 remained unspent;